Alberta Crop Report

Crop Conditions as of November 29, 2016 – Final Report of 2016

The harvest season for 2016 was one of the longest ones on record. Some producers began harvest operations in the first week of August and were unable to complete it until the end of November, due to cool wet weather that delayed harvest progress. As of November 29, Alberta producers combined 90 per cent of crops (see Table 1), with seven per cent in swath and three per cent standing. These will likely be left until the spring. Moisture over last few months was beneficial for fall seeded crops, which are now rated as two per cent poor, 14 per cent fair, 60 per cent good and 24 per cent excellent.

Despite the harvest challenges for crops across the province, the dryland yield index was estimated 14.1 per cent above the 5-year average (see Table 2). However, the crop quality for cereals are below their 5-year averages, except malt barley which is higher. Crop quality for canola number one and the top two grades of dry peas are in line with the 5-year averages. About 66 per cent of hard red spring wheat has now graded in the top two grades, down 12 per cent from the 5-year average. About 54 per cent of durum wheat has graded number 2 or better, down 23 per cent from the 5-year average. About 23 per cent of barley is eligible for malt (up five per cent from the 5-year average) and 60 per cent is graded as number 1 (down seven per cent from the 5-year average). About 58 per cent of oats is graded in the top two grades, down 20 per cent from the 5-year average. Almost 81 per cent of harvested canola is graded as number one (in line with the 5-year average), with 14 per cent graded as number 2 (up two per cent from the 5-year average). About 73 per cent of dry peas are graded in the top two grades, in line with the 5-year averages.

Provincially, feed supplies are anticipated to be very good. Both forage and feed grain reserves are estimated as adequate to surplus, with very few producers anticipating a shortfall. Forage reserves are reported as one per cent deficit, nine per cent shortfall, 62 per cent adequate and 28 per cent surplus, while the rating for feed grain reserves is three per cent deficit, four per cent shortfall, 61 per cent adequate and 32 per cent surplus.

Table 1: Estimates of Crop Harvest Progress as of November 29, 2016

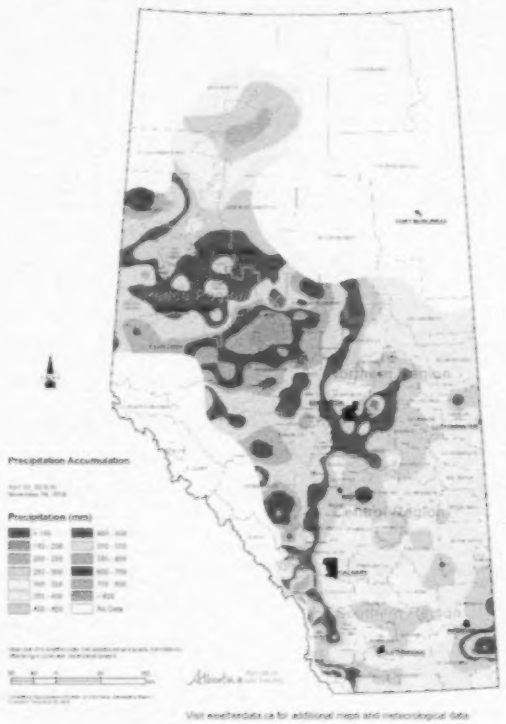
	Per cent of Combined					
	South	Central	N East	N West	Peace	Average
Spr. Wheat	100.0%	92.7%	85.4%	83.5%	85.3%	90.8%
Dur. Wheat	100.0%	100.0%	---	---	---	100.0%
Barley	100.0%	92.6%	72.8%	77.0%	81.0%	88.7%
Oats	100.0%	90.6%	66.5%	70.6%	79.3%	77.1%
W. Wheat	100.0%	100.0%	100.0%	---	---	100.0%
Canola	100.0%	92.8%	78.5%	83.5%	83.6%	86.8%
Dry Peas	100.0%	98.3%	99.8%	98.5%	93.0%	98.5%
Lentils	100.0%	100.0%	---	---	---	100.0%
Chick peas	100.0%	100.0%	---	---	---	100.0%
Mustard	100.0%	100.0%	---	---	---	100.0%
Flax	100.0%	91.1%	57.5%	---	---	92.9%
All crops	**100.0%**	**93.2%**	**81.0%**	**82.4%**	**84.6%**	**89.7%**

Source: AF/AFSC Crop Reporting Survey

Table 2: Dryland Yield Estimates (Major Crops) as of November 29, 2016

	Estimated Yield (bushel/acre)					
	South	Central	N East	N West	Peace	Alberta
Spr. Wheat	46.5	55.7	57.4	63.1	47.1	53.3
Dur. Wheat	46.8	49.0	---	---	---	47.1
Barley	66.3	77.1	78.1	74.4	58.3	72.7
Oats	70.1	82.9	84.6	89.9	69.6	81.8
Canola	42.5	49.2	44.9	45.5	35.6	43.7
Dry Peas	40.1	47.5	45.5	49.2	45.3	43.6
Yield Index	**106.3%**	**120.5%**	**119.1%**	**109.6%**	**116.1%**	**114.1%**
Last Year	**82.0%**	**90.8%**	**85.7%**	**86.0%**	**94.4%**	**86.9%**

Source: AF/AFSC Crop Reporting Survey



Our thanks to Alberta Agricultural Fieldmen, staff of AFSC and the Alberta Ag-Info Centre for their partnership and contribution to the Alberta Crop Reporting Program. The precipitation map is compiled by Alberta Agriculture and Forestry, Environmental Stewardship Branch, Engineering and Climate Services Section.

Growing Forward 2
A federal-provincial-territorial initiative

Alberta Government

Canada

REGIONAL ASSESSMENTS:

The 2016 Alberta Crop Report Series continues to provide summaries for the following five regions:

Region One: Southern (Strathmore, Lethbridge, Medicine Hat, Foremost)

- Harvest is complete in this Region. Yields are above average, but quality has been impacted by the wet harvest season. Considerable fall works have also been done.
- Crop quality for malt barley, the top two grades of oats, canola number two and the top two grades of dry peas are above the provincial 5-year average.
- Overall, forage reserves are reported as one per cent deficit, 18 per cent shortfall, 70 per cent adequate and 11 per cent surplus, while the rating for feed grain reserves is seven per cent deficit, four per cent shortfall, 70 per cent adequate and 19 per cent surplus.
- Fall seeded crops are rated as two per cent poor, 13 per cent fair, 56 per cent good and 29 per cent excellent.

Region Two: Central (Rimbey, Airdrie, Coronation, Oyen)

- About 93 per cent of crops (up two per cent from two weeks ago) have been harvested. Of the remainder, four per cent are still in swath and three per cent standing and likely not to be harvested until spring.
- While three per cent of spring wheat, four per cent of barley, five per cent of oats and canola are still in swath, four per cent of spring wheat and barley, five per cent of oats, two per cent of canola and nine per cent of flax are standing.
- Crop quality is below the provincial 5-year averages for the top two grades of spring and durum wheat, as well as barley and canola number 1. For the other crops, the quality is above the provincial 5-year average.
- Regionally, forage reserves are reported as two per cent shortfall, 80 per cent adequate and 18 per cent surplus, while the rating for feed grain reserves is two per cent shortfall, 75 per cent adequate and 23 per cent surplus.
- Fall seeded crops are rated as 14 per cent fair, 80 per cent good and six per cent excellent.

Region Three: North East (Smoky Lake, Vermilion, Camrose, Provost)

- Despite wet and cold conditions, producers were able to combine 81 per cent of the crops (up five per cent from two weeks ago). There are still 19 per cent of crops left in the field (15 per cent in swath and four per cent standing).
- Six per cent of spring wheat, 22 per cent of barley, 27 per cent of oats and 21 per cent of canola are still in swath, while eight per cent of spring wheat, five per cent of barley, seven per cent of oats and 42 per cent of flax are standing.
- The quality for harvested crops is below the provincial 5-year averages, excepting barley and canola number 1 which are higher, and canola number two, which is in line with the 5-year average.
- Regionally, forage reserves are reported as six per cent shortfall, 55 per cent adequate and 39 per cent surplus, while the rating for feed grain reserves is 57 per cent adequate and 43 per cent surplus.
- Fall seeded crops are rated as 88 per cent good and 12 per cent excellent.

Region Four: North West (Barrhead, Edmonton, Leduc, Drayton Valley, Athabasca)

- Harvest for the season is over, with about 83 per cent of crops in the bin (up five per cent from two weeks ago), 12 per cent in swath and five per cent still standing. Very little fall work has been done.
- About seven per cent of spring wheat, 14 per cent of barley, 15 per cent of oats and canola are still in swath, while nine per cent of spring wheat and barley, 14 per cent of oats and one per cent of canola and dry peas are standing.
- The quality for harvested crops is below the provincial 5-year averages, excepting canola number 1 which is higher.
- Regionally, forage reserves are reported as seven per cent shortfall, 54 per cent adequate and 39 per cent surplus, while the rating for feed grain reserves is 10 per cent shortfall, 51 per cent adequate and 39 per cent surplus.

Region Five: Peace River (Fairview, Falher, Grande Prairie, Valleyview)

- About 85 per cent of crops are now in the bin, nine per cent in swath and six per cent still standing.
- About three per cent of spring wheat, five per cent of barley, four per cent of oats, 15 per cent of canola and two per cent of dry peas are still in swath, while 12 per cent of spring wheat, 14 per cent of barley, 17 per cent of oats, two per cent of canola and five per cent of dry peas are standing.
- The quality for harvested crops is below the provincial 5-year averages, excepting malt barley and canola number 1, which are higher.
- Regionally, forage reserves are reported as five per cent deficit, 10 per cent shortfall, 35 per cent adequate and 50 per cent surplus, while the rating for feed grain reserves is four per cent deficit, 10 per cent shortfall, 36 per cent adequate and 50 per cent surplus.
- Fall seeded crops are reported as 27 per cent fair, 56 per cent good and 17 per cent excellent.

Alberta Agriculture and Forestry
Economics and Competitiveness Branch
Statistics and Data Development Section
December 2, 2016

Ashan Shooshtarian, Crop Statistician
E-mail: ashan.shooshtarian@gov.ab.ca
Phone: 780-422-2887

Note to Users: The contents of this document may not be used or reproduced without properly accrediting Alberta Agriculture and Forestry, Economics and Competitiveness Branch, Statistics and Data Development Section.

The 2016 Alberta crop reporting series is available on the Internet at: http://www1.agric.gov.ab.ca/$department/deptdocs.nsf/all/sdd4191